Sl. No.	Name of State	OYT	N-OYT
13.	Orissa	36	22,543
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	1,356	2,29,248
15.	Rajasthan	1,426	1,89,252
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry (UT))	9,543	4,43,888
17.	Uttar Pradesh	513	1,83,219
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Calcutta)	372	1,56,533
19.	Delhi	37	56,827

Delay for Releasing the Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

1180. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Maharashtra telecom circle makes inordinate delay in releasing the telephone connections recommended by the Members of Parliament from their Quota;

(b) if so, the reason for such delay; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to expedite such delay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Sir, Sanctions are issued expeditiously after following Departmental guidelines on the matter. However during last year some cases did get delayed owing to destruction of most of the office records in a major fire accident in Circle HQ, Mumbai.

(b) In a major fire accident on 13.5.96, most of the office records of Circle Office were destroyed. This included records about utilisation of out-of-turn quota by respective MPs of the Xth Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha. Some letters of recommendation by MPs' and some sanctions prepared for despatch were also destroyed.

Most of the lost records were reconstructed by getting information from field units of MH Circle & also from other Circles. When some information was found missing inspite of above efforts, Hon'ble MPs were requested to furnish information from their own records.

Issue of sanctions pertaining to XIth Lok Sabha (which was formed after May' 96) has been smooth.

However, some cases pertaining to MP's of Xth Lok Sabha and also of Rajya Sabha got delayed owing to the process of reconstruction of records explained above.

(c) As stated in part (b) dislocation during 1996 was on account of fire accident. Otherwise the procedure for issue of sanctions is streamlined and new sanctions for the current year are being issued without any delay.

Target for Providing Telephone Connections

1181. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government were far behind the target of providing telephone connections during the last year and the situation is no better during the current year;

(b) if so, the targets fixed for the last year and the current year.